

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 19 and 21 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 11, 19 and 21 are currently amended.

Section 112 Rejections

The present Office action rejects claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-34 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection refers to the claim limitation of registering a target with a server behind a firewall. The Office action states that this limitation is not described in the specification to enable one skilled in the art to be able to perform the registration step with a server behind a firewall by way of any communication without undue experimentation. It is said that a firewall conventionally does not allow nodes to communicate with a node behind the firewall and that the specification fails to disclose any unconventional, novel or unobvious method for doing so.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As argued below, applicant's step of a target registering with a server behind a firewall uses network security techniques that were well known to persons of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention. There is no need to disclose any unconventional, novel or unobvious method for carrying out this step.

U.S. Patent No. 6,292,904, "Client account generation and authorization system for a network server", describes techniques that can be used for a target registering with a server behind a

firewall. The '904 Patent describes a password generation and management system running as an application on a network server, which permits access to a secured database by remote users (including users communicating with the server over the Internet). An intranet includes applications running on servers 130, which provide security for the intranet and its users. These applications are collectively termed a "firewall."

The '904 Patent describes a method for providing a secure user account identifier and password to facilitate sharing of data between the secure internal server and an external node accessible over the Internet. A request for a user account identifier and password is received from a requestor by the user's pressing a button on a registration request page 550. The internal server then displays a registration form with fields to be filled out by the requester. The '904 Patent discloses a registration process for an external requester, and Figure 5 illustrates a registration form that is completed by the external requester, resulting in the assignment of a user account identifier and password to the external requester. The account generation procedure for an external user is shown schematically in FIG. 6. Once the internal server has assigned a secure user account identifier and password to the external user, the external user is identified on an access control list of the internal server and may obtain access to data replicated from the internal server.

Another reference showing technology that is suitable for performing the claimed registration step is U.S. Patent No. 5,805,803. In the '803 Patent a client computer connected to a public network such as the Internet makes a request for an intranet resource to a tunnel of a firewall isolating the intranet from the Internet. A checker function sends a user identification form to a Web browser of

the client computer; this user identification form may for example be an HTML “form”. The user of the client fills out the HTML form with appropriate user identification, e.g. user name and password, which when correct authenticates the user and grants the user’s request for access.

The ‘904 and ‘803 Patents illustrate forms and procedures for registering a target or client with a server behind a firewall that were well known to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention. These well known techniques include: the registration of a client computer with a Web browser that requests access to a server behind a firewall; and the use of HTML forms for registration and authentication.

In addition, various teachings of the present patent application would guide the person of ordinary skill in the step of registering the target with the server behind the firewall. The preferred embodiment uses a web browser at the client or target to access systems protected by an enterprise network firewall (col. 3, lines 3-6). The patent application discloses the step of authorizing access by a requester to a web site behind the firewall, e.g. via a signed applet responsive to authorization of the requester. The step of registering the target with the server behind the firewall is another well known technique for authorization of a requester (client). In the preferred embodiment, the web site is at a collaboration manager separate from the server, and transfer or downloading of the file is “out of band” with initial communication with the web site. In the context of this “out of band” communication, the claimed method provides authorization of the target using the well known expedient of registering the target with the server behind the firewall, in addition to any authorization of the requester with the web site. In this regard, see dependent claims 2-4, 13-14, 23-24.

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office action observes that the independent claims recite a target registering with a

server behind a firewall and then later recite the server receiving a registration at the server behind the firewall. The Office action states that it is unclear whether the newly recited registration is a new “registration”, or refers back to the previously recited “registration”.

The Office action further observes that Claims 19-20 and 29 further recite “registering with the server behind the firewall” and that it is unclear whether this recitations refers to either of the two recitations discussed above. [Note, in responding to this rejection, Applicant interprets the reference to claim 29 to be intended to refer to the independent claim 21].

In response to these rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, applicants herein amend claims 1, 11, 19 and 21 to clarify that all references to registration or to a registering step refer to the same step or registration. These claims all recite that the “file is pushed from the server through the firewall” by “registration of a target with the server behind the firewall”, and the claims later recite the “server receiving said registration of the target behind the firewall”. In claim 19, the step of “registering with the server behind the firewall” is made an antecedent for the “registration” through the recitation that “the file is pushed from the server through the firewall by said registering step resulting in registration of a target....” In claim 21, the step of “receiving a registration at the server behind the firewall” is made an antecedent through the recitation that “the file is pushed from the server through the firewall by the step of receiving said registration, comprising the registration of a target with the server behind the firewall”.

As regards the dependent claims, these claims together with their base claims and intervening claims, if any, should be patentable in view of the amendments to the independent claims and the arguments presented above.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph. To discuss any matter pertaining to the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the practitioner of record, Steven Swernofsky, at (650) 947-0700.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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